



PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 16075	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/JP2003/010821	International filing date (day/month/year) 27 August 2003 (27.08.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 27 August 2002 (27.08.2002)	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B60R 21/04, 19/18, 25/04			
Applicant KANEKA CORPORATION			

<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>4</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of _____ sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application </p>
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Date of submission of the demand 13 January 2004 (13.01.2004)	Date of completion of this report 27 July 2004 (27.07.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2003/010821

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is language of a translation furnished for the purpose of:

international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):

The international application as originally filed/furnished

the description:
 pages _____, as originally filed/furnished
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the claims:
 pages _____, as originally filed/furnished
 pages* _____, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the drawings:
 pages _____, as originally filed/furnished
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (specify): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (specify): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP03/10821

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	18-36	YES
	Claims	1-17	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	18-33	YES
	Claims	1-17, 34-36	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-36	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Document 1: JP, 8-142784, A (TOKAI RUBBER INDUSTRIES, LTD.), 04 June 1996

Document 2: JP, 11-208395, A (KASAI KOGYO CO., LTD.), 03 August 1999

Document 3: JP, 6-8930, Y2 (FUJI HEAVY INDUSTRIES, LTD.), 09 March 1994

Document 4: Microfilm of the specification and drawings annexed to the written application of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 133535/1988 (Laid-open No. 54754/1990) (MAZDA MOTOR CORPORATION), 20 April 1990

Document 5: JP, 11-129840, A (NISSEN KAGAKU K.K.), 18 May 1999

Claims 1-17

“Pad 6” and “vertical rib 3 and lateral rib 4” in the invention described in document 1 cited in the ISR are equivalent to “compression energy absorbing material” and “buckling energy absorbing material” in the inventions described in claims 1-17.

“Shock absorbing pad 50” and “clip attachment seat 40” in the invention described in document 2 cited in the ISR are equivalent to “compression energy absorbing material” and “buckling energy absorbing material” in the inventions described in claims 1-17.

“Energy absorbing material” and “backup beam” in the invention described in document 3 cited in the ISR are equivalent to “compression energy absorbing material” and “buckling energy absorbing material” in the inventions described in claims 1-17.

“Damping body” and “honeycomb-structured body” in the invention described in document 4 cited in the ISR are equivalent to “compression energy absorbing material” and “buckling energy absorbing material” in the inventions described in claims 1-17.

“Shock absorbing material A” in the invention described in document 5 cited in the ISR is equivalent to “buckling energy absorbing material” in the inventions described in claims 1-17.

Therefore the inventions described in claims 1-17 are not novel and do not involve an inventive step.

Claims 34-36

It would be obvious to a person skilled in the art that the locations described in claims 34-36 are locations likely to undergo shock, so providing the structure body described in any of documents 1-5 cited in the ISR at these locations could easily be conceived by a person skilled in the art.

Therefore the inventions described in claims 34-36 do not involve an inventive step.

Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.
Continuation of Box V:

Claims 18-33

The point about setting at least either the collision timing at which collision energy absorption starts in the buckling energy absorbing part or the peak value timing at which shock force reaches its peak after collision so that it varies in a stepped manner or continuous manner is not described in any of the documents cited in the ISR and the aforesaid point is non-obvious to a person skilled in the art.

Therefore the inventions described in claims 18-33 are novel and involve an inventive step.